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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/765,107	01/28/2004	Han Ki Cho	9988.099.00-US	9733

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1900 K STREET, NW  
WASHINGTON, DC 20006

EXAMINER
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HANSEN, JAMES ORVILLE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3637

DATE MAILED: 05/24/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/765,107

Applicant(s)

CHO, HAN KI

Examiner

James O. Hansen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 March 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-48 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 6-8 and 13-48 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 and 9-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 06 March 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Drawings***

1. The replacement sheets of drawings were received on March 6, 2006. These drawings are approved by the examiner for examination purposes.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-5, 9, 11 & 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over German publication DE 19838631 [known hereafter as DE`631] in view of Sill [U.S. Patent No. 6,578,902]. DE`631 (figures 1-4c) teaches of a pedestal (fig. 2) used in conjunction with a washing machine (14) [note previously cited U.S. equivalent to Blumenschein], the pedestal comprising: a pedestal body (10) supporting a bottom portion of the washing machine; and at least one coupling means (as depicted in figures 4a-4c) provided to both the machine and pedestal body; but DE`631 does not show the coupling means as being provided to lateral sides [interpreted as meaning the vertical or upright sides] of both the machine and the body. Sill (figures 1-5) teaches of a coupling means (fig. 4) utilized to join to two adjacent members (115, 116) together that are arranged along the same plane. The coupling means includes a coupling member (123) that could be provided on both lateral sides of the washing machine and the pedestal body [which is located directly beneath the washing machine], and a fastening member (126) that is capable of

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fastening the coupling member to the side of the washing machine and to the side of the pedestal body, respectively; wherein the fastening member includes, a first fastening member (one 126 – double-sided tape is one option disclosed in the specification) capable of fastening an upper part (viewed as the right side since rotated 90 degrees when attached) of the coupling member to the side of a lower part of the washing machine, and a second fastening member (the other 126 – double sided tape) capable of fastening a lower part (viewed as the left side since rotated 90 degrees when attached) of the coupling member to the side of an upper part of the pedestal body. Accordingly, the position is taken that it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize an additional coupling means, as taught by Sill, for attachment to the lateral sides of DE`631's washing machine and pedestal body since this arrangement would enhance the stability and rigidity of the combined units due to the increased joined surface areas of the coupled units. DE`631 further discloses a receiving part (viewed as the receiving space or volume located within the body – so far as broadly recited) for putting things therein, and wherein the coupling means is designed to adjust a height of the washing machine by means of adjusting members (58). It is understood that the height of the washer in relation to the body would be adjusted prior to incorporating Sill's coupling means.

4. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over DE`631 and Sill, and further in view of Mason [U.S. Patent No. 1,756,984]. The prior art teaches applicant's inventive claimed structure as disclosed above, but does not show a drawer located within the body. Mason is cited for teaching the use of a drawer (3) coupled with a pedestal body (2) that supports an appliance (1). Accordingly, the

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position is taken that it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the prior art by incorporating a drawer within the pedestal body as taught by Mason because this arrangement would provide DE`631 with a means to readily access items/contents stored within the body of the pedestal since a drawer could be withdrawn from the body and easily inspected, then retracted back into the body after retrieval of the items, while at the same time presenting an aesthetically pleasing pedestal appearance.

5. Claims 1-5, 9 & 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Prior Art Admission – figures 1A-1B and correlating information disclosed in the specification [known hereafter as APAA] in view of Sill [U.S. Patent No. 6,578,902]. APAA (figure 1A) teaches of a pedestal (20) used in conjunction with a washing machine (10), the pedestal comprising: a pedestal body (21) supporting a bottom portion of the washing machine; but APAA does not show a coupling means provided to lateral sides [interpreted as meaning the vertical or upright sides] of both the machine and the body. Sill (figures 1-5) teaches of a coupling means (fig. 4) utilized to join to two adjacent members (115, 116) together that are arranged along the same plane. The coupling means includes a coupling member (123) that could be provided on both lateral sides of the washing machine and the pedestal body [which is located directly beneath the washing machine], and a fastening member (126) that is capable of fastening the coupling member to the side of the washing machine and to the side of the pedestal body, respectively; wherein the fastening member includes, a first fastening member (one 126 – double-sided tape is one option disclosed in the specification) capable of fastening an upper part (viewed as the right side since rotated 90 degrees when attached) of the coupling member to the side of a lower part of the

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washing machine, and a second fastening member (the other 126 – double sided tape) capable of fastening a lower part (viewed as the left side since rotated 90 degrees when attached) of the coupling member to the side of an upper part of the pedestal body. Accordingly, the position is taken that it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate a coupling means, as taught by Sill, for attaching a lateral side of APAA's washing machine to a lateral side of the pedestal body since this arrangement would securely connect the washing machine to the pedestal body thereby enhancing the stability and rigidity of the combined units due to the positive coupling of the units. APAA further discloses a receiving part (22), in the form of a drawer, located within the body for putting things therein.

### ***Response to Arguments***

6. Applicant's arguments filed March 6, 2006, with respect to the Mason reference have been fully considered and are persuasive. As such, the rejection has been vacated. Applicant's amendments to the claims filed March 6, 2006, with respect to the German publication [DE`631] have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further search and consideration, new grounds of rejections were put forth as previously disclosed.

### ***Conclusion***

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Sill `564 teaches of a coupling means between adjacent members.

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8. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP

§ 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James O. Hansen whose telephone number is 571-272-6866. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday between 8-4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lanna Mai can be reached on 571-272-6867. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



James O. Hansen  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3637

JOH  
May 19, 2006

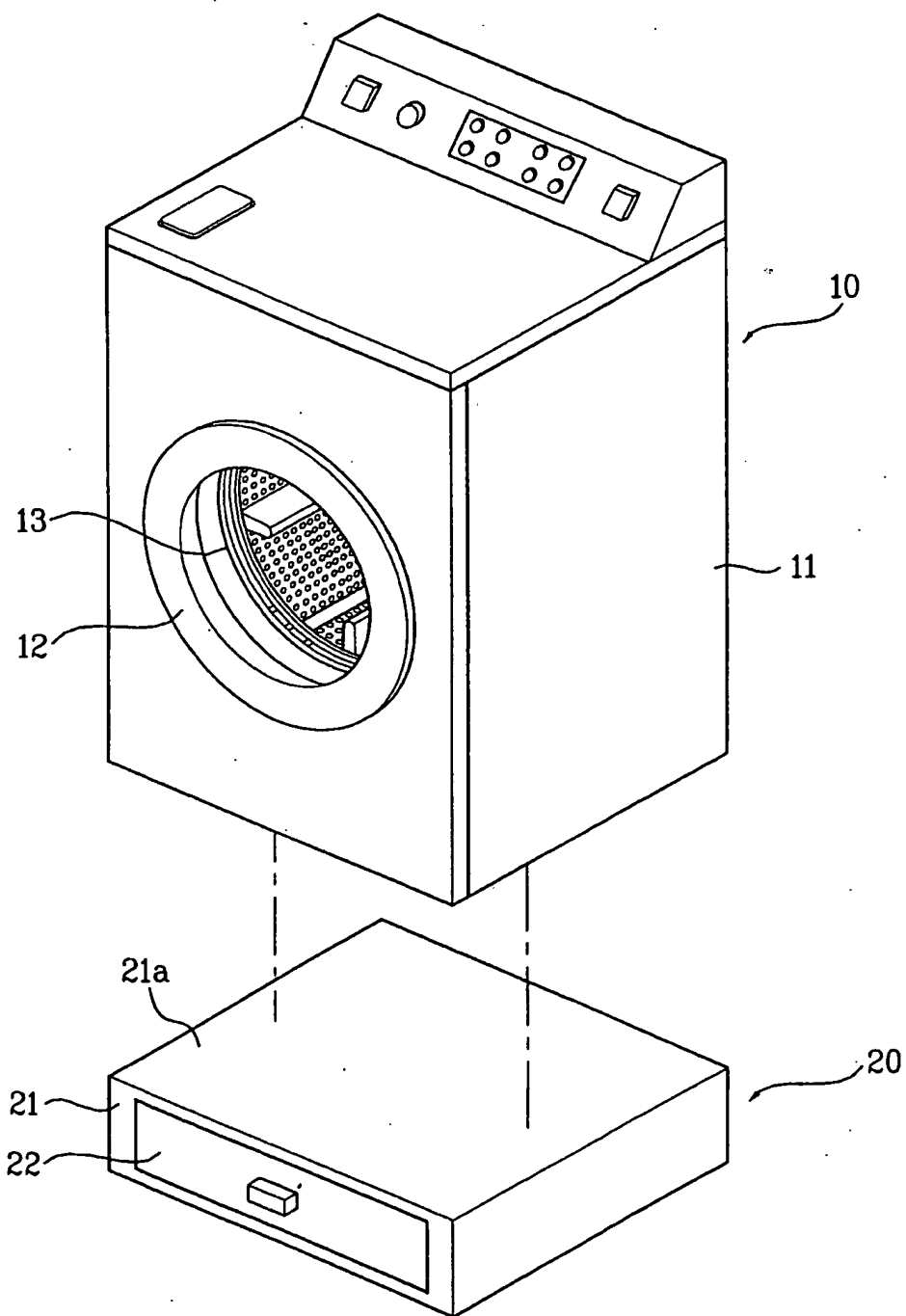




# REPLACEMENT SHEET

FIG. 1A

— Related Art —



Approved for examination purposes  
Apr 5/16/06

# REPLACEMENT SHEET

FIG. 1B

— Related Art —

driving speed (rpm)	Vibration at different points on washing machine cabinet( $\mu\text{m}$ )			
	right side	center	left side	top/bottom
1150	1150	300	1400	100
970	240	140	250	0
880	150	130	200	0
800	75	130	100	0

Approved for examination purposes  
Jah 5/16/06

Approved for examination purposes  
Jph 5/16/06

